

Why does Imam Abu Hanifa رحمته الله not narrate from a Sahabi?

Upon the demise of our Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, the age of Sayiduna Abdullah bin Abbas رضي الله عنه was equivalent to the age of Imam Abu Hanifa رحمته الله when many of the Sahaba رضي الله عنهم were still alive. Sayiduna Abdullah bin Abi Awfa رضي الله عنه [d. 87h], Sahal bin Sa'ad Saa'idi رضي الله عنه [d. 91h]. Anas bin Malik رضي الله عنه [d. 93h], Abdullah bin Busr al-Mazini رضي الله عنه [d. 94h], Amir bin Waathla al-Asqa' رضي الله عنه [d. 102h] were all alive at the time. Upon the death of Sayiduna Amir رضي الله عنه, the age of Imam Abu Hanifa رحمته الله was 22 years, and Sayiduna Abdullah bin Abi Awfa رضي الله عنه was a resident of Kufa. Hafith at-Thahabi (rh) writes:

مولده سنه ثمانين رأى انس من مالک غير مره لما قدم عليهم الكوفه

His birth was in the year 80th and had seen Anas bin Malik on more than one occasion when he had travelled to Kufa, Iraq.

It is difficult to understand that if Sayiduna Abdullah bin Abbas رضي الله عنه narrates from our Beloved Prophet ﷺ at the age of 11, why can't Imam Abu Hanifa رحمته الله narrate from Sayiduna Anas bin Malik رضي الله عنه whom he had met on numerous occasions. It is obscure to assume that Sayiduna Anas bin Malik رضي الله عنه would not narrate any Ahaadith in his majlis, but rather there maybe another reason why Imam Abu Hanifa رحمته الله does not narrate from him.

The people of kufa were known to be very cautious in regards to the Hadith of our Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Khatib Bhagdadi (rh) writes:

ان اهل الكوفه لم يكن الواحد منهم يسمع الحديث الا بعد استكماله عشرين سنه

Verily the people of Kufa would not hear/narrate Hadith until after completing 20 years of age

Taking this into consideration it is very likely that Imam Abu Hanifa رحمته الله had heard Ahadith from Sayiduna Anas bin Malik رضي الله عنه however due to him not being of 20 years of age, he did not narrate it. Darqutni (rh) says that Imam Abu Hanifa رحمته الله has definitely met Sayiduna Anas bin Malik رضي الله عنه but however does not narrate from him. This would be applied in the context mentioned above regarding his age being under 20.

Athaar al-Hadith – Dr. Allama Khalid Mahmood رحمته الله

Translated by: Muhammad Ammar al-Madani رحمته الله